



## **Envision Arlington Standing Committee Meeting Minutes**

April 11, 2019  
Town Hall Annex, 1st Floor

Present: Juli Brazile, Elizabeth Carr-Jones, Sue Doctrow, Kelly Lynema, Jen Toole, Greg Christiana

Absent: Scott Lever, Cindy Starks

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1. Introductions and Announcements — Juli announced that Cindy Starks will have to leave the group when her term is up, so there will be two vacancies this summer. We should think about a recruitment plan and Juli can make an announcement, for example, when she presents the Report to Town Meeting (TM).

2. Approve Feb minutes — All agreed that the minutes, by Kelly, were excellent. Voted to approve.

3. Survey report/analysis — Various topics related to the survey results and the upcoming report were discussed. Like in recent years, Juli will present a short report to TM and refer TM members (TMMs) to a more complete pdf online with a more detailed summary of results. Kelly volunteered to format this pdf in a more usable form than Survey Monkey produced (e.g. with graphs integrated with text to make it more readable).

Discussed progress on reaching out to people who responded to the survey that they wanted to be contacted about possibly volunteering. Ali will be contacting those interested in Business and Public Art; Gordon Jamieson will reach out to those interested in Fiscal Resources. Kelly will check in with Stacey Mulroy, new Director of Recreation, about reaching out to those interested in Recreation. We need to find the best way to reach out to those interested in Communication, and several suggestions were proposed. Jen will draft a short note that might go out to those people to engage them, e.g., maybe they want to help with our outreach efforts to update the Town Goals/Vision Statements.

We reviewed drafts of our analysis which will be inserted into the large Survey Monkey report. Juli provided survey info (for the pdf, see above) on representative topics from the 2019 survey, Precinct Meetings and the Warrant for TM. There were lots of comments in the surveys that need to be distilled. Jen will identify some common themes from Q19 about Precinct Meetings.

Regarding the Warrant topic, it is clear that we are not ready to have it delivered only online, but distribution in the Advocate is somewhat unclear. Would it be better to have it mailed instead of depending on the Advocate, what would it cost? Several people commented in the survey that they find the Warrant hard to read and understand; could a cover page be added to describe its purpose? (i.e. as an agenda to guide subsequent more specific/detailed votes at Town Meeting; many residents do not know this).

We discussed how much information to provide about the Governance Value question, which is the same question as the dot exercise from Town Day. We also have data from the one house party we ran as a test. It was agreed that the first two methods, especially the survey, were more quantitative, whereas the house party was more anecdotal but could be useful, e.g., as a way to identify new issues/topics that could be addressed in more detail in future surveys; to provide feedback to town departments on what residents

especially appreciated, etc. Sue will try to distill the info from this ranking (esp the dots and survey) into a draft paragraph for the TM report.

Another issue raised was a concern about whether the new TMM candidate statements were accessible to all candidates, not only incumbents. (There was a complaint that it was not, and that it represented the town interfering in elections.) This year, the statements were first introduced, so were proposed relatively late (though were publicized on various large channels, e.g. the Town announcements) but in the future the word will get out even more broadly and, also, possibly the League of Women Voters will present the statements on its website, instead of them being posted on the town's website.

4. Report to TM — Juli presented a draft of her “one pager” report to TM and it was discussed. This year's report will focus on new or revitalized working groups: Survey, Governance, and Public Engagement. Again, some of the communication volunteers might want to help with the outreach process. Jenny Raitt had told Juli that she'd be able to train potential facilitators (e.g. for house parties).

5. Budget review — New task group requests were discussed. Dollar amounts attached to certain projects can potentially be carried over to the following year. Juli suggested budgeting about \$500 to help defray costs of holding precinct meetings. Other measures to try to reduce these costs were suggested. Diversity Task Group is very enthusiastic with many ideas and mentioned that they could use about \$1300 to fund events. This is high for our budget, but we still want to encourage events for which there is a clear need/high interest (e.g. events on bullying, talking to kids about race, bystander training). It was agreed we want to encourage these plans but, also, help DTG find some creative ways to help finance them (e.g. partnering with other groups who will also contribute).

6. Next steps in 2019 — (Meeting was adjourned prior to this topic, though elements were addressed at earlier parts of the meeting).

Convening  
House parties  
Subcommittees  
Recruiting

7. Confirm date of May meeting – Thursday, May 9, 2019.

8. New business – None discussed

Meeting adjourned at 9:05

*Submitted by Sue Doctrow*